

HIGH POINT

Vol. 15, No. 2

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Christmas, 1990

1990: Year In Review

by Danielle Ramos

United States soldiers went to Saudi Arabia "to fight for Kuwait's liberty." In reality, the United States wanted oil, and we still do. As a result, we may have to fight a war and have thousands of people killed over dollars and cents.

The Wall was torn down. East and West Germany were united.

Environmental Awareness Day was held on April 26, 1990. Various musical artists participated in a day-long concert in Central Park to show their support. Over a million people attended. Recycling and preserving the ozone layer were major themes of the day. After the concert, the audience picked up after themselves and threw away litter.

Although America is supposed to exemplify democracy and freedom, censorship made itself known. Luke Campbell from the 2 Live Crew was arrested and indicted on obscenity charges in Florida. He was found not guilty, which left at least a little hope for future expressions in music. Senator Jessie Helms of North Carolina attempted to prevent any exhibits which HE found distasteful.

The New York City crime rate exploded. Recently, within the past week, four children were shot in the crossfire of drug lords in the streets. Children cannot even play on their own blocks without fear of stray bullets.

Mayor Dinkins laid off 15,000 City workers. Every day a recession becomes more likely.

Greats, such as Andy Warhol, Steven Ray Vaughan, and Leonard Bernstein, died.

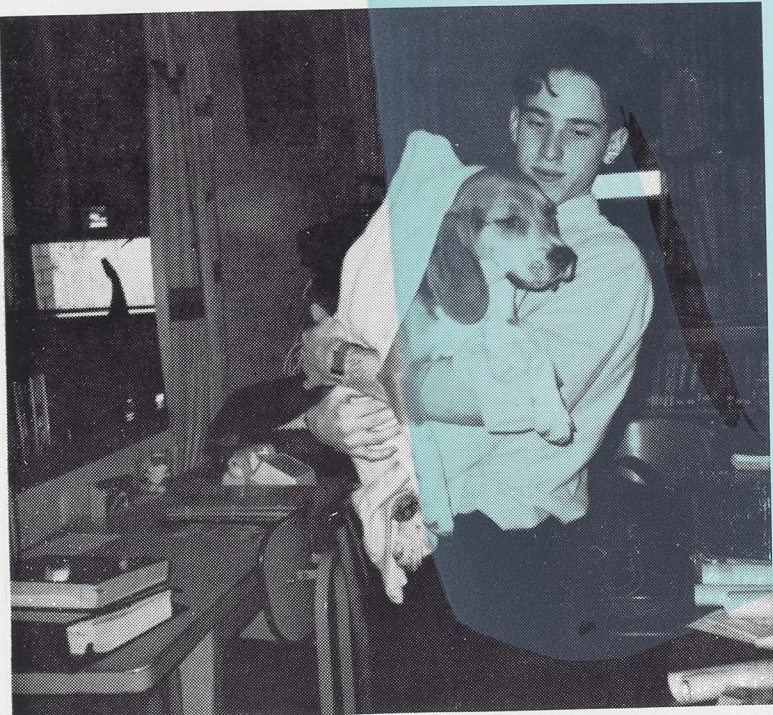
Children became obsessed with those green, hard-shelled heroes, better known as Donatello, Michaelangelo, Leonardo, and Raphael—The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Slap bracelets were another favorite among children. They are rulers which, when slapped on a wrist, curl up into a bracelet. **The Simpsons** became a household word. People everywhere were adorned in T-shirts, which read, "I'm Bart Simpson, Who the Hell are You?" That little wise guy beat out *Cosby Show* in the ratings. Among the new musical artists were Mariah Carey, Wilson Phillips, and M.C. Hammer.

As we began the 1990 fall semester, many changes were made at Ford. Mr. Huchla returned, and newcomers were Mrs. O'Leary Proseus and Mrs. Geroulakis.

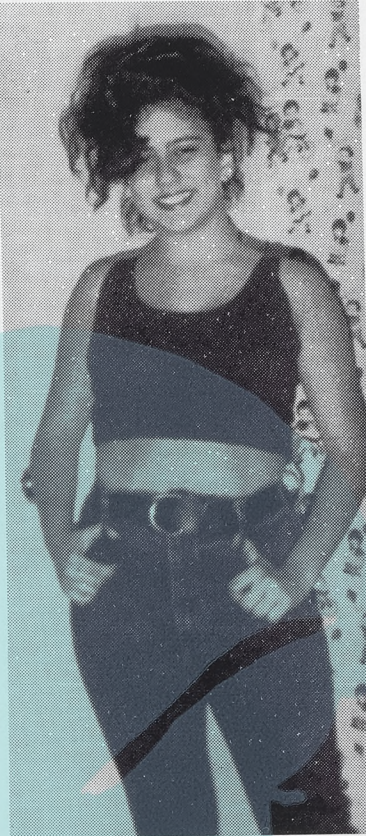
A minute was cut in between classes, making getting to class on time in a crowded hallway virtually impossible. Channel One was instituted, as was FFF (Ford Family Network).

Does this all sound familiar? It should. This was 1990.

Here we go again into another year. As we enter 1991, as always, who knows what will happen? Before we know it, June 1991 will soon be here, and our senior class will be taking their places in the world.



Look who wandered into Ford! Junior Christopher Mendicina took temporary responsibility for this lovable pup, until it was adopted by Ms. Herman. As the old saying goes, "Finders keepers. . ."



Highpoint wishes a speedy recovery to sophomore Jennifer Akl. Get well soon, Jennifer!

Congratulations to the new officers and members of the National Honor Society and the National Business Honor Society:

President—Sandra Paul
Vice President—Nicole Goodman
Treasurer—Nina McClellan
Secretary—Theresa Falco
Precious Abu
Anthony Allison
Olivia Almengor
Alisha Awad
Michele Barthelemy
Andre Byfield
Eugene Fusco
Ahmed Harris
Yong Kim
Shameka Lawrence
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Natisha Matthews

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Olivia Almengor
Scott Comis
Janet Gonzalez
Raymond Hall
Steven Johnson
Amy Palmer
Daniel Powers
Frank Tamayo
Brian Wheeler
La'Juan Mix
Nicholle Worrell

FOCUS ON SENIORS SEEMS SLIGHT

by Camille Villaroel

It seems to me this year's senior class has been stripped of whatever privileges seniors should have. The seniors have been told that they are one of the best classes, yet they are not being rewarded for this accomplishment. Here are comments from fellow seniors:

"This is true. We've all been cheated out of our privileges, and something should be done. Otherwise it's all just talk."

—Jessica Rijo, 408

"Many of the seniors feel that the varsity teams get away with many things, such as dress code and demerits, due to their status. I personally have seen this happen."

—Carlos Mascernas, 406

"I agree that seniors are being treated unfairly and we should have more privileges, such as a less-strict dress code and more freedom during free periods (leaving the school building and coming back next period), and be able to use a walkman during cafeteria time. It's not right if people can express themselves smoking and not through music."

—Rene Santiago, 409

"I feel this school should focus more on the seniors. It seems that every year seniors are less important. They should at least let us wear our own sweaters or jackets without any complaints. They should also have more senior gatherings so we can live this year up!"

—Marissa Caban, 401

Saddam Situation Survey

by Danielle Ramos

Do you think the United States will go to war with Iraq?

"Yes, I do. They are trying to keep oil from us. We can't back down. We must take a stand."

Glenn Martell, 307

"If it comes down to it, yes, we will go to war. Saddam Hussein can rot in Hell for all I care."

Theresa Eidt, 404

"Right now, I'm not sure. So far, serious problems have been going on and nothing really is being solved. I just hope we don't go to war, because I don't think the world can survive another war, and peace should be the answer."

Nadine Aoun, 201

"It seems to me, President Bush is preparing us, psychologically, for war. He has Secretary of State James Baker, III, traveling to eight countries, including the Soviet Union; I suspect he's gathering their support and informing them of our motives. I also suspect, when we do go to war, it will be after Christmas."

"To answer your question: Yes, I do think we will go to war with Iraq."

Mr. Sued, S.S. Dept.

"Yes, because Iraq is keeping the U.S. Americans hostage. The United States has the right to declare war on Iraq."

Vladimir LeBrun, 107

"I really can't say for sure, but I hope we don't. Americans must realize the actual reasons for war: money and political interests."

Delanda Kent, 405

"Yes, I hope we kill them all."

Donald Danelio, 203

"Yes, I believe that we will go to war in a few months, because President Bush is going to wait until January or February for the holiday season to end. So it doesn't seem like he would go to war around the Christmas season."

Jason Peckis, 308

"Yes, I think they will blow them up with the atomic bomb."

Miguel Rivera, 209

"I think it is possible, because the U.S. has the potential. We must protect our interests."

Zuilyn Guerra, 404

"No, because Iraq and the U.S. are all talk."

Nicole Crooks, 103

"Warfare is inevitable. If there is a war, the war will be to protect the interests of the oil companies, not the Arab nations."

Noel Aneoes, 401

The Editors and Staff of **Highpoint** strongly support and encourage the Daily News strikers!

Student Oppression?

by Jere Artus

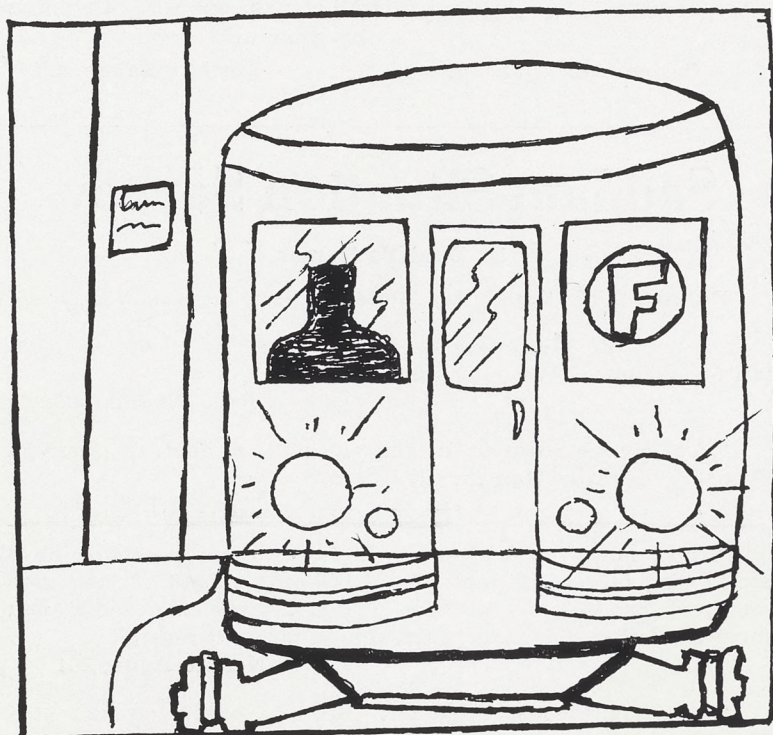
On September 24, 1990, ten juniors and an unknown number of underclassmen were sent home because they were not wearing the school regulation uniform. I know a way to prevent this incident from happening again, and that is to change the dress code.

I think we should have a little freedom regarding what we decide to wear. I don't mean we should come in looking sloppy. I think we should get to wear a nice pair of jeans, shirt or sweatshirt, sweater (if necessary), socks, and sneakers. This way many students would be more comfortable during classes. Also, when the weather gets cold, we would be prepared for it. Finally, I think many students would look much better wearing regular clothes.

If this can't be done, maybe they should establish dress-down days once or twice a month. If the school wants to charge a small fee, which would go to Ford or a charity, I think that a large amount of money would come in, because many of us want to get out of the uniform.

My opinion of the uniform is, well, I feel much more comfortable in the clothes I wear . . . at home.

Come Back To What?



by William Condon

The Metropolitan Transit Authority has been making a big deal about the New York City Subway System lately. "We're coming back, so you come back." Come back to what? Late trains, filthy stations, obnoxious employees, and threats to life at every turn.

Ridership on the Subway has steadily decreased from over two million passengers in 1947, to just under one million thrill-seekers today. I call them thrill-seekers because of the fun and excitement you can experience during any given day. The violent situation on the Subway has become so ridiculous that rider is murdered in front of rider, and not so much as an eyelash is batted. Sure, there was a great deal of public outcry when a young tourist from Utah by the name of Brian Watkins was murdered while visiting our fair city, but what has been done since this atrocity was committed? Obviously, just a lot of meaningless hot air from local politicians, but little or no action.

The New York City Subway System was opened in 1904 as a quick and economical way for New Yorkers to get around. Today, it is used for the same purpose. Of course, you'll have to hide all valuables, battle jammed turnstiles, and take the risk of being trapped in a tunnel for unreal amounts of time.

The passage of time has proven that Mayor Dinkins' promise of a police officer on every train can be snickered at, at best, especially since most Transit Authority employees can't even get walkie-talkies that function properly.

Maybe the T.A. could alter its clientele so that it wouldn't include so many chain snatchers, muggers, and rapists.

In the future, the Transit Authority will continue to say the subway is improving, riders will continue to say it is getting worse by the minute, and young, promising people like Brian Watkins will continue to die.

"Please step in and stand clear of the knife-wielding maniac."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW SENIOR LEADERS:

Anthony Allison
Taia Buck
Christine Glancy
Scott Ermisch
Vanessa Laird
Thomas Nelson
Lynda Nulty
Amy Palmer
Tamara Dominguez
Danielle Ramos
Kurt Schamann
Dave Seung
Cynthia Stankiewicz
Sandra Paul
Frank Tamayo
Anthony Valentino
Camille Villaroel

Mayoral Mishap

by Christina Prestia

What would you think of me if, while walking down the street, I took a dish of hot food from a homeless person? Would you think I was immoral, or would you try to justify my action?

Recently, Mayor David Dinkins proposed higher taxes and suggested that 15,000 city workers be laid off in an attempt to cut city spending. Ironically, however, just days after the Mayor introduced his budget proposals, a hand-carved cherry wood headboard was delivered to Gracie Mansion.

The total cost of the headboard is \$11,500. More than half the cost was billed to the HRA. The Human Resources Administration is a special-welfare agency. Its main purpose is to aid the city's homeless and poor. HRA workers were taken away from their jobs to decorate and paint the mansion, as well as to build the headboard.

The Gracie Mansion Conservancy, a private non-profit organization, has handled decorating costs in the past. In this case, however, only the wood used in making the headboard was paid for by the conservancy. The 500 hours of labor, on the other hand, will cost city tax payers \$11,500 at \$23 per hour. To simplify, tax payer's money, which should be going into the HRA, is being given to Anthony Russo, the HRA employee who hand-carved the headboard.

I cannot comprehend how a headboard is more important than helping the poor. It is difficult to believe that HRA workers were not neglecting the needy when they were decorating the mansion.

In reality, the Mayor, himself, took that hot dish of food away from the poor and homeless when his staff ordered HRA workers away from their jobs to do unnecessary work in Gracie Mansion. I do not think the mansion could have looked very bad. Nor do I think that there was a pressing need for a headboard, especially a headboard that costs \$11,500.

Our Readers Fire Back

Dear Editor:

I am not sure I like this Channel One program, because we do not have that much time to change classes. If you are on the first floor and your locker is on the second floor, and your class is on the third, three minutes is not a sufficient amount of time to change from class to class.

I think before they put the program into effect, they should have consulted the students first, because we are the ones who are going to be watching it.

They should ask the students for some help with the decisions concerning themselves, the students and the school.

Sincerely,

Tim Liffey

Dear Editor:

I liked your article; I think it's wrong for us to have to wear gray pants and a white shirt with Bishop Ford written on the front of it. While juniors and seniors get to wear a choice of pants and shirts, when we are juniors, we still won't have the choice. We should all have a choice so we don't have to look like dirt bags, wearing the same two pairs of pants all year.

This article showed me how out of hand the uniform situation is getting, even though it is made up. This is a good way to show Brother Luke we're not pleased with the uniforms. I hope the principal will seriously consider changing the dress code.

Sincerely,

Vinny Sica

Dear Maria:

I read your reviews for the MTV music awards. I agree Motley Crew was good, but people like Janet Jackson were not as good as you said.

Faith No More really made an impact. I really did not care for Incest. M.C. Hammer was really outstanding.

I think you blew New Edition Reunion up too much. Madonna was very interesting but could have been better. In my opinion, Areosmith was the best.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor:

I feel Channel One is a very good thing to watch. It sometimes helps us in our studies and can help us understand what is going on in the world. It can also tell us how lucky we are that there is no war in our country, unlike Israel. I say Channel One is a help to this school.

Chris Grimes.

Dear Bill,

I agree with your article, that there is not enough time to get to class. All the time I think I have enough time

to get to class, but I don't. The bell rings, and I'm late for class. Then the teacher gets mad because I am late, but there is only 3 minutes. All because of the 17-minute homeroom.

If I want to hear the news, I'll watch it at home.

Sincerely,

Arthur King

Dear Christina,

I see the point you're trying to make about Ford underwear, and I agree with you. Even though I am a sophomore transfer student, and I have only been here since September, I am already disgusted with the dress code.

Maybe if the students work hard enough, we all could try to get rid of the dress code, or have a few days a month when we students can come to school normally dressed. If the students get a petition and enough signatures, maybe we can do something about it.

I believe that if the dress code ever does get as bad as you're dreaming, more and more students will try to do something about it.

Sincerely,

Dominick Portello

Dear Editor:

I disagree with this article, because we only have three minutes to change for classes, and a lot of people have been late. If you ask me, the "Channel One" program should only be seen in the cafeteria during the lunch periods, so then everyone could see it, and they would not have to extend homeroom.

Christine Lazzara.

Dear Bill Condon,

I am writing to you to tell you I agree 100% with your article. I agree with what you say about the student population having to deal with the changes being made here at Ford. I also believe, like you do, that Channel One is very helpful and educational, even if we do have less time in-between classes and get out a few minutes later every day.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Walsh

HIGHPOINT

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The cast of "Up The Down Staircase."

by Diana Carpenter

Before I did anything, I had to find out what some of the actors thought of Mr. Mingrone and the play, "Up The Down Staircase." I started with Mark Carrera: "I like my role, because it's not me. I have to work; I really have to act." He also thinks it's a lot of fun working with Mr. Mingrone: "He makes you feel like he's your friend, not your teacher."

Nicole Goodman says she, "Loves working with Mr. Mingrone and is satisfied with her role." She also thinks, "It's a play the audience will enjoy." Rosemary "Capri" Sanchez thinks Mingrone is "a cool dude." "He talks to you like he's one of your real friends. I mean, to me he is, but in class he bugs out with us as if we're all hanging out; he's cool!" Ruby Andreolli thinks Mingrone is definitely fun to work with. When I asked her about the play, she stated, "It may be scary at first, but the play itself is a lot of fun doing!" Dominique Vincent thinks 'Mingrone' is fun to work with; he's also a good director; he's more than a friend or teacher, he's awesome. He gets along with everybody, and he loves my smile." Reginald Deas just thinks he's fun and interesting. Christine Vega thinks Mingrone is different from other teachers. What makes him special is he is more than a teacher, he's a friend, someone you can talk to." Anyway, on with the play.

"Up the Down Staircase" was performed on December 7th and 8th. Why did Mr. Mingrone pick this play? His answer was: "Last year all of the acting club graduated, and I wanted to use a play with a lot of people."

The play is about a new young high-school teacher confronting a new class and the difficulties that are encountered in an urban high school. Mr. Mingrone was always involved in directing in college and high school. He was asked to direct when he

came here to Ford. His first play was "Anything Goes" in 1978. I asked Mr. Mingrone if he thought he was a perfectionist when it comes to plays. His answer was (with an amusing smile): "Yes, I think so." I also asked him if he showed favoritism towards his actors. His answer was a definite: "No. The cast is picked on talent; experience is a factor that helps. I am close to my actors, but that doesn't color my decision about a role." Mr. Mingrone has been working at Ford since 1978 and enjoys working in class, as well as with the drama club; he feels it's a good way to get to know students well. Besides Ford, Mr. Mingrone also works at St. Francis College and likes it very much. Denise Miller is one of Mr. Mingrone's past students, who has played in "The Prime of Miss Gene Brodie," "Fish," "Charles in Charge," and "Archie Bunker's Place." Mr. Mingrone's last words to future actors are: "In all the years I have done this, I have never known anyone who has not enjoyed it or felt richer for the experience." As for pursuing acting professionally: "If you feel the desire to do it, you, by all means, pursue it, understanding, however, it's an enormously difficult field that requires a tremendous number of sacrifices."

The cast consists of:

Dominique Vincent, Nicole Goodman, Allison LaGrua, Chad Frontera, Chad Sarcomagno, Geraldine Nash, Elena-Marie Grandelli, Ewa Sudowski, Tracy Reynolds, Theresa Falco, Max Hernandez, Dermot Murphy, Mayte Perez, Cindy Basile, Helena Decker, John Riley, Ruby Andreolli, David Headley, Rosemary (Capri) Sanchez, Mark Carrera, Elida Martes, Alicia Gomez, Christine Vega, Sean Whatley, Reginald Deas, Michael Enders, Caroline Ferrara, Angelica Franseca, Nadine Aoun, and Marissa Coban.

Ice Ice Baby

by Kabrina Munell

"Ice, Ice, Baby." What is it about the song "Ice, Ice, Baby" by Vanilla Ice? Could it be the rhythm? Could it be the lyrics? Or maybe it's just Vanilla's melodious voice. Well, whatever the reason, this song is a major chartbuster! (And just in time, too. Someone had to rid M.C. Hammer of his No. 1 album). Interesting fact: The beat of Vanilla Ice's tune is taken from an old David Bowie song. "Ice, Ice Baby" was a fast mover on the charts. Oh, well, Vanilla, your album's still a cool No. 1 (even if the best isn't yours).

New Kids And Their Moms Go Public

by Vincent Lijoi

ATTENTION ALL NEW-KIDS-ON-THE-BLOCK, M. C. HAMMER, AND PERFECT-GENTLEMAN FANS! Did you catch the Oprah Winfrey Show on Channel 7 for Thursday, November 1st? Oprah had the Moms of each N.K.O.T.B. member. Jordan and Jon Knight's Mom, Marlene; Danny Wood's Mom, Betty; Donnie Wahlberg's Mom, Alma; and Joseph McIntyre's Mom, Katherine, were all there. Perfect Gentleman's Tyrone Sutton's Mom, Linda, Corey Blakeley's Mom, Phylliss, and Maurice Starr, Jr's Mom, Darlene, were also there. Another guest on the show was the Mom of M.C. Hammer, Betty. The fans went absolutely wild when they saw the Mom of their favorite singer. The one question asked of all Moms by Oprah Winfrey was, "Did you expect your son to be such a big hit?" The response from every Mom was "No!"

Almost every Mom is enjoying the attention her son

has been getting, as well as the attention she has been getting because of her son. One of the comments made by New Kid Joseph McIntyre's Mom, Katherine, was that she always wanted Joseph to become a priest. She also said, kidding, that she does not want Joseph to have a girlfriend.

The part of the show that brought the house down was when Perfect Gentleman surprised their Moms by singing "Ooh La La" to them. The song is from their album, "Rated PG." It was a shock to the Moms of Perfect Gentleman to see their sons there, because they were tricked by the people who work at the Oprah Winfrey Show into believing their sons were in New York for a photo shoot. The Perfect Ones closed the show by singing another song from their album called "Move Me, Groove Me." It was a very creative and well done show that the entire staff at the Oprah Winfrey Show should be congratulated for.

Prince And His Court

by Vincent Lijoi

PRINCE FANS ALERT! PRINCE FANS ALERT! There was a tribute to rock star Prince on Channel 4's Friday Night Videos for Friday, November 2nd. Hopefully, everyone who likes Prince got a chance to see it. It was great! It was hosted by Kadeem Hardison of "A Different World" and singer Patti LaBelle. The show featured an entire hour of Prince videos and exclusive concert footage from Tokyo, Japan. Some of the videos that were shown were, "1999," "Little Red Corvette," "Let's Go Crazy" and "Kiss." The show also featured Prince during a concert in Tokyo, Japan, singing, "Party Man" and "When Doves Cry."

Hosts Kadeem Hardison and Patti LaBelle revealed some information about Prince's songs. For example, the Purple Rain soundtrack stayed at the top of the charts for 24 weeks and sold 14 million copies. Another piece of information that was revealed is that the song "Kiss" was remade by another singer by the name of Tom Jones, who has been singing since 1965.

To end the show, videos from Prince's new album and movie, "Graffiti Bridge," which opened on Friday, November 2nd, were shown. The videos were "Thieves In The Temple" and "New Power Generation." The show was very exciting to watch and was put together well for a singer who definitely deserved the tribute!

Basement Bands Are Back!

by Bill Condon

All Shook Down, the new album from the Replacements, is unlike any effort they have previously put forward.

Led by lead vocalist/guitarist Paul Westerberg, this album is the 'Mat's highest to date, but they still manage to maintain a light, unpolished feel, unlike their previous work, "Don't Tell A Soul."

Westerberg seems to have outgrown the rest of his band mates here, featuring the

entire quartet together only on one track. Instead, he recruits the talents of such rock luminaries as John Cole and Concrete Blonde's Johnette Napolitano to support his superior song writing abilities.

This album differs from past Replacements efforts because they no longer use drunken, twisted (but really fun) logic, and have instead taken more time to craft an album, which will make you think and have a good time while listening.

ARTS REVIEW

by Christina Prestia

Pocket Books has recently released Jennifer Lynch's "The Secret Diary of Laura Palmer." Lynch cleverly conveys her idea of what Laura Palmer's diary would have been like if the "Twin Peaks" character existed off screen.

The book as written as you would your own diary, consisting of various entries, beginning with 1984 and ending in 1989.

You need not be a regular viewer of "Twin Peaks" to read this book. In fact, if you have attempted to watch and became confused, reading this book will give you a better understanding of what is going on.

You will begin to feel like Laura's **confidant** as she tells her darkest secrets and describes her experiences with drugs and sex. The book becomes so real that you want to help Laura.

Once you begin reading you won't want to stop.

by Jason Coppola

Goodfellas, which comes into the movie theatres when a rash of other Mafia-imitation stories have popped up, is truly one movie for Mafia buffs not to miss. The movie is inspired by a book named **Wiseguy** by former mobster-turned-informant, Henry Hill.

It is based on a true story in which Hill was part of a powerful Mafia family in the 60's, 70's, and 80's. It is directed by one of the industry's greatest directors, Martin Scorsese, who captures all the good and bad of the Mafia with almost total accuracy. It stars critically-acclaimed actor Robert DeNiro as Jimmy 'The Gent' Conway, an Irish Mafia hit man, with a supporting cast of Ray Liotta as Henry Hill, Joe Pesci as a psychotic hit man, and Paul Sorino as Paulie, the head of the 'Family.' The movie details the life of Henry Hill's rise from a numbers runner to a full-fledged hit man, during which he gets caught up in drugs. The movie was the center of a controversy this summer for its brutal murders, which could have earned it an X by the MPAA, but because Scorsese is an 'artistic talent,' the movie went to an R rating.

It is a wonderfully filmed masterpiece. While awaiting Godfather III, due out Dec. 25, go see this one before it runs off to video. Recently, mobster Henry Hill emerged from the witness protection program to see the movie about his life and loved it. He said it was as accurate as could be about the subject.

MORE POETRY

by Maria Diaz

The light will illuminate your path through many dark roads. It may have to pass. It will help you take care of every step. It will burn every footprint you leave in the soil, for people seeking to help you shall find you, and those seeking to hurt you shall not find you, because the prints will be abolished with every set of eyes that lands on them.

*The Editors And Staff Of Highpoint
Wish All Members Of The Ford
Community A Very Merry Christmas
And A Happy New Year*

HIGHPOINT strongly opposes President Bush's decision to waste priceless human lives for oil.

Track Three Interviewed



Nina, Petlyn and Sha-Sha.

by Shameka Lawrence

Since their freshman year, Petlyn Job, Nina McClellan and Sharahnn Lane (Sha-Sha) have been on the Bishop Ford track team. In this article the girls discuss their feelings about running and the team.

Q: Has running changed you in any way?

Sha-Sha: It's made me more committed; I strive harder; I set a goal and I go get it.

Nina: It's made me more responsible, loyal, and hard-working.

Q: How has the team changed in your four years here at Ford?

Petlyn: There's a larger number of girls on the team than in my freshman year.

We've learned to work together, and everyone is considered family, including the boys, even though they get on our nerves most of the time.

Nina: The varsity team has grown so much bigger, and there's much more commitment and loyalty, not just as a team, but as a family.

Q: How do you think your life would be different without track?

Sha-Sha: I don't think I would've made such close friendships. It's made me realize there's so much more out there for me.

Petlyn: My life without track would probably be a total uproar. Without running, it would be very hard for me to obtain any satisfaction in my life.

Q: How do you feel about running?

Nina: Running has made me become very hardworking. I feel very happy with myself that I've accomplished something I thought I really couldn't do.

Petlyn: I feel that running is hard work. You really have to set your mind to it, if you want to accomplish your goal. It also relieves me of the daily stress of school and everyday life.

Q: How do you feel about your coach, Mrs. Vasquez?

Sha-Sha: Mrs. Vasquez is more than a coach, she's a best friend and a mother to me. The whole team (boys and girls) is just like a family.

Nina: She's not just my coach, she's my teacher, my counselor, and one of my best friends. I appreciate that she's spending so much of her time on us. She comes in early, and doesn't leave until every last one of us leaves. I'll really miss her when I leave.

Petlyn: She has a very special place in my life. She's always influencing me to go for what I want. She's given me the incentive to do the best I can and never give up.

Q: Do you have any words to say to the rest of varsity and j.v.?

Nina: I know you have the strength to keep going and the passion to make it to the top. I want to thank them for being there, especially when I felt like quitting.

Petlyn: As Mrs. Vasquez would say, "It's all in your head. Therefore, to be the best, you have to practice, work hard, and go after what is yours." I'd also like to say that without most of you (you know who you are), I wouldn't have been able to commit myself to track or move on to further accomplishments.

Sha-Sha: Thanks for all the support. I wish you the best of luck in track and whatever you do with your lives, and I love you.

HIGHPOINT editors and staff would like to congratulate Mrs. Cavanagh on the birth of her son, Kevin Patrick and also Mrs. Lynch on the birth of her daughter, Caitlyn.

Annual Alumni Run

by Shameka Lawrence

Once a year, on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Alumni Run is held at Prospect Park. The Alumni Run gives former track members a chance to see Mr. and Mrs. Vasquez once again, and they also get to run with the current members of the track team. After the run, an awards ceremony is held, and refreshments are served. The Alumni Run is not just a race, but a gathering for the former and current runners at Ford to see each other once more.

Coach Fernandez Responds

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to an article written by Christopher Petrosino about the baseball team, "Fair Sport?"

After reading this article I decided to talk to Chris about his remarks and to give him the facts about the baseball team.

I was appalled to read that a player's brother made the team because of his brother. If this is in reference to the only brother of a team member, this young man is the fifth best player on the team, is a sophomore and has every right to play on the varsity. I really do not feel that anyone that was cut from the varsity is even close to being as good as the present team members.

About the statement that nine out of ten times the varsity team is an extension of the junior varsity team, I would like to say that the junior varsity team is to the varsity team what the triple A team is to the major league team. This means that the junior varsity prepares the players to play for the varsity. If nine times out of ten this happens with our varsity, it must mean that our junior varsity is doing an excellent job.

On the present varsity team there are five ball players that never played in our junior varsity program: Johnny Savinon, Mark Carrera, Chad Saccomagno, John Murphy and Al Maisonet. This proves that everyone has the same opportunity to make this team.

What is surprising and upsetting to me is that when I spoke to Chris he informed me that he did not write the article, that someone else wrote the article and used his name. If this is the truth, then my question is, "How could this happen?"

There are 18 young men on the varsity baseball team. Everyone of them has worked very hard to make this team, and it is unfair that a statement of this type can be made about them.

Sincerely,

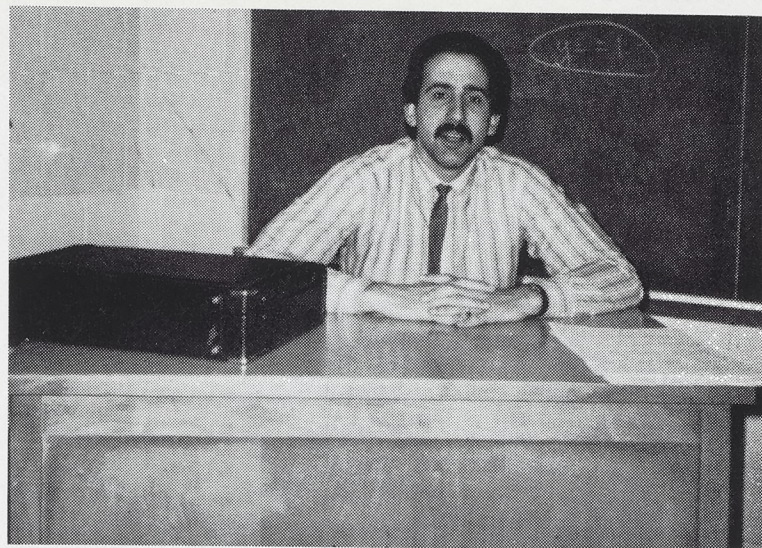
Manuel Fernandez,
Baseball Coach.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All HIGHPOINT editors and staff members are required to take responsibility for whatever they publish in our student newspaper.

The HIGHPOINT editorial staff regret any misinformation relating to or appearing in the article in question.

Faculty Focus: Mr. Piselli



Danielson, who's your master? Mr. Miagi?

by Diana Carpenter

Mr. Piselli from Brooklyn, a very well-known math teacher, also a very good karate instructor, instructs a karate class at Ford. Most of us think of physically-fit people when the word karate comes to mind, but karate focuses mostly on discipline.

Mr. Piselli has been studying karate for eight years; he was taught by two instructors, Linda Lutes and Nelson Howe, who also teach at Ford. They both have fifth-degree black belts (master status).

Mr. Piselli has been in karate for about eight years now. He has a second degree black belt. He also teaches in a karate school called "Way of Action" on 5th Avenue and Seventh Street. When I asked Mr. Piselli if he liked Ford, he answered "yes" he liked Ford, and he has been here since college (he was a student here). I also asked him if he thought the students at Ford were mature or immature. His answer was

neutral; he thinks, "There are many students lacking in discipline, and that is why many students don't sign up for the club, because a lot of discipline is taught. Either they don't believe it works, or it's too athletic for them!" If Mr. Piselli's 5-year-old son can do it and enjoy it, why not a bunch of high-school students from Ford? So, come on down and join up. It's never too late! Meetings are on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:00 in the cafeteria, and on Saturdays from 11:00 to 12:30 in the gym. The fee is \$25.00 for eight classes. Each student gets individual attention as soon as he/she joins, until he/she is capable of joining the class." There is no uniform for this class, just sweat clothes! I asked Mr. Piselli if he had a few words to say:

"The way today's society is, everybody has a responsibility to learn how to defend himself/herself, and I think this is the most important thing that anybody can do!"

Pro Money Mounts

by Jason Coppola

With the growing controversy of free agency, renegotiation, and salary arbitration, salaries in nearly every sport have not only skyrocketed for stars but also for mediocre players, except the National Basketball Association (NBA), which has a salary cap rule, but still some very ridiculous salaries. The bottom line on these salaries is, if the athletes don't receive the money, who exactly does? Not the fans; the owners do. Is there really a difference? The owners will only get richer and richer from profits. For example, Jose Conseco's lucrative \$25 million 5-year-deal, and Buster Douglas, who is a one-fight boxer, are paid millions and millions, yet if they were not, it would go to the team or to the promoter. So, the players have some right to want more money, since it's they who are making the owners rich, and the owners refuse to see it that way. But in some cases, as in that of Darryl Strawberry, who wants Conseco-type money, he does not receive it. He scares management with the threat of free agency to leave behind this team for a few extra million dollars a year.

It was George Steinbrenner who got the salaries going up for free agents in every sport by signing players, such as Reggie Jackson and Dave Winfield, to large contracts, thus increasing the price of free agents. All sports have followed suit, but the consequence of huge money offers and contracts is that you 'buy' the athlete when he is a star, and usually seeing he is set, he 'cools his jets' (because he knows the money is always there) and turns into a lemon.

The owners are at fault, too, for signing long-term contracts and not one-year contracts, as they used to do. Eddie DeBartolo Jr., real estate mogul, purchased a major portion of stock in the San Francisco 49ers just to be noticed as a multi-millionaire, and upon winning their second superbowl in a row, flew the whole team to Hawaii to present them their superbowl rings, flaunting his riches. Is it also right to say that Mr. DeBartolo Jr. is making everyone (athletes) look at him and say, "I want to play for him," because he pays large contracts to men such as Joe Montana and Jerry Rice, his two superstars? All in all, I feel the money should be distributed on talent, not on whether you're a free agent or you're unhappy with present accommodations. And the one-year contract should be used more heavily.